

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection and the allowance of all claims now pending in the above-identified patent application (*i.e.*, Claims 11, 12 and 15-17) are respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

At the outset, it should be recognized that the present invention, as now claimed, provides a hose reel assembly, which includes a hose reel spool having a riser there-through for providing a fluid path in combination with the unitary support member of the invention. The unitary support member, as now recited in Applicants' claims, includes a laterally extending motor and gearbox and hub to which the hose reel spool is connectable via a plurality of studs with an integrated frame housing being provided for the unitary support member and the hose reel spool. In contrast to prior art assemblies, which generally provide spools for housing the hose mounted on a frame and supported between two axial bearing hub assemblies with cranking means located at one end, the presently claimed hose reel assembly has an automotive hub to which the hose reel spool is connected via a plurality of studs for ready placement and removal.

As will be explained in greater detail hereinafter, nowhere in the prior art is such a novel and efficient hose reel assembly, which includes a laterally extending motor and gearbox and hub, to which said hose reel spool is connectable via a plurality of studs, either disclosed or suggested.

By the present amendments, Applicant has amended independent Claim 11 (and

all remaining claims via dependency) to now recite that the unitary support member of the claimed hose reel assembly includes --a laterally extending motor and gearbox and hub to which [the] hose reel spool is connectable via a plurality of studs--. Claim 11 has also been amended so that terminology used in one portion of the claim finds antecedent support in an earlier portion of the claim.

Dependent Claims 13, 14, 18 and 19, which recited various structural features which the Examiner held not to be illustrated in Applicants' drawing figures, have been canceled for the purpose of mooted the Examiner's 37 C.F.R. §1.83(a) drawing objection of the first Office Action.

Separately, FIG. 2 has been amended to provide lead lines and new reference number "62" for the two studs originally illustrated in this drawing figure, which form a part of the stud hub assembly of the present invention. Applicants' Specification has been amended (at Page 2) to support this amendment to FIG. 2 of the drawing figures.

Additionally, FIG. 2 has been amended to remove lines to the left of gearbox 50, which appear to mistakenly represent a "plate," or other structure, that does not properly exist and should preferably not be shown.

Turning now, in detail, to an analysis of the Examiner's prior art rejection, in the first Office Action the Examiner has rejected independent Claim 11 and various dependent claims as being anticipated, pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §102(b), by Gear, U.S. Patent No. 2,301,208. It is the Examiner's contention that the applied citation of Gear shows a hose

reel with a hub (26), bearing and axle, at a lower portion of FIGS. 1 and 3, and a riser (40), along with spool sections (15, 18), thereby anticipating the combination of elements originally recited in independent Claim 11.

In reply to the Examiner's anticipation applying Gear, the applied reference discloses a hose reel apparatus that has a spool mounted between two hubs. In contrast to that taught and suggested by Gear, the present invention, as now broadly claimed and recited in Applicants' Claim 11, includes a unitary support member having "a laterally extending motor and gearbox and hub to which [the] hose reel spool is connectable via a plurality of studs," rather than having the hose reel spool simply being conventionally connected and mounted between two hubs.

In view of the laterally extending arrangement of a motor and gearbox and hub, to which the hose reel spool is connected via a plurality of studs, as now claimed, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's 35 U.S.C. §102(b) anticipation rejection of the first Office Action has been overcome and should now be appropriately withdrawn.


Concerning, finally, the remaining references cited by the Examiner, but not applied in any rejection of Applicants' claims, such additional references have been carefully considered, but are not deemed to adversely affect the patentability of the present invention, as now claimed.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully contended that all claims now pending in the above-identified patent application (*i.e.*, Claims 11, 12 and 15-17) recite a novel

and efficient hose reel assembly, which includes a laterally extending motor and gearbox and hub, to which the hose reel spool is connectable via a plurality of studs, which is patentably distinguishable over the prior art. Accordingly, withdrawal of the outstanding rejection and the allowance of all claims now pending are respectfully requested and earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

STUART MORAN *ET AL.*

By 
Edwin D. Schindler
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 31,459

PTO Customer No. 60333

Five Hirsch Avenue
P. O. Box 966
Coram, New York 11727-0966

(631)474-5373

March 23, 2009

Enc.: 1. Petition for Three-Month Extension of Time for Response; and,
2. EFT for \$555.00 (Three-Month Extension Fee).

The Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge the Deposit Account of Applicant's Attorney (*Account No. 19-0450*) for any fees or costs pertaining to the prosecution of the above-identified patent application, but which have not otherwise been provided for.